

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07

SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 OIC-04 EURE-00 CU-04 EB-11 /176 W

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P R 161739Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9578

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04722

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR MEDITERRANEAN
DECLARATION

REF: STATE 073509

1. WE CALLED ON WIGGIN, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO, TODAY TO EMPHASIZE STRONG USG OPPOSITION TO ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR SEPARATE CSCE DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE LEFT WITH HIM TALKING POINTS PAPER DRAWN FROM REFTEL AND STATE 59882 AND GENEVA 1843.
 2. WIGGIN SAID UK WOULD RATHER THAT ITALIAN PROPOSAL HAD NEVER HAPPENED. HE WENT ON THAT BRITISH HAD BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN WATERING IT DOWN, AND THOUGHT THAT FROM VIEWPOINT OF SUBSTANCE, THEY HAD SUCCEEDED IN MAKING IT FAIRLY INNOCUOUS. WIGGIN NOTED THAT BRITISH
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CAN LIVE WITH THE LATEST VERSION WHICH HE SAID WAS OF

MARCH 19. HE DEPLOYED IN NEUTRAL FASHION ARGUMENTS WHICH MORE ARDENT PROPONENTS OF ITALIAN PROPOSAL HAVE MADE, MAINLY THAT ITALIAN PROPOSAL WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS OBJECTIONABLE THAN OTHERS WHICH MIGHT BE TABLED AND IN EFFECT WOULD PRE-EMPT MORE RADICAL DECLARATIONS.

3. WHILE WONDERING WHETHER USG'S CONCERNS ABOUT DANGERS OF ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE BEING INJECTED INTO CSCE WERE WARRANTED, WIGGIN READILY ACCEPTED US CONCERNS ABOUT LAPSES IN CONSULTATION BETWEEN EC NINE AND US. HE SAID POINTS WE HAD MADE WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO BRIEF BEING PREPARED FOR KILLICK WHO WILL BE UK POLITICAL DIRECTOR AT APRIL 18-19 MEETING IN BONN.

4. WIGGIN SAID IT WILL BE BRITISH OBJECTIVE AT EC MEETING TO GET AGREEMENT THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF A SEPARATE DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SHOULD BE THRASHED OUT "A QUINZE". IT WOULD BE DEPLORABLE, HE SAID, IF A PROPOSAL WERE MADE AT CSCE WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FULLY COORDINATED BY ALL 15 IN NATO; IT WOULD BE BRITISH OBJECTIVE TO ENSURE FULLEST NATO DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER BEFORE IT WAS TABLED. KILLICK, WHO JOINED US BRIEFLY, SAID HE FULLY AGREED.

5. WIGGIN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN ISSUE WOULD NOT GO AWAY AND THE BASIC QUESTION WAS WHETHER IT SHOULD BE HANDLED UNDER SEPARATE HEADINGS OF BASKETS ONE AND TWO OR AS A SEPARATE MATTER.

6. COMMENT: BRITISH CLEARLY DO NOT FEEL HAPPY ABOUT ITALIAN PROPOSAL OR WAY IT HAS PROGRESSED SO RAPIDLY WITH LIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS. BUT THEY SEEM TO FEEL THEY ARE IN A DILEMMA: THEY DO NOT WANT A ROW WITH THEIR EC NINE PARTNERS BUT THEY DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT A ROW WITH THE US EITHER. THE LINE THEY PROPOSE TO TAKE AT BONN IS A COMPROMISE DESIGNED TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH THE NINE AND GO SOME DISTANCE TO GIVE US FULLEST OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE ITS CONCERNS.

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